

REMARKS

Claims 1-2 and 4-17 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 9 are amended and claim 3 is canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. In particular, claim 1 incorporates the subject matter of claim 3 and claim 9 is amended to correct a typographical error. Reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-2, 6-7, 11 and 15-16 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Kawai (U.S. Patent No. 6,239,033) in view of David Lide (CRC Handbook of Chemistry and Physics, 82nd Edition); rejects claims 3-5 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Kawai in view of David Lide, and further in view of Cervantes et al. (6,379,985); rejects claims 8-9 over Kawai in view of Cervantes and David Lide, and further in view of Mistry et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,731,046); rejects claim 10 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Kawai in view of Cervantes and David Lide, and further in view of Maeda et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,189,771); and rejects claims 12-14 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Kawai in view of Cervantes and David Lide, and further in view of Dunnrowicz et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,163,557). The rejections are respectfully traversed.

None of the applied references disclose or suggest forming a cavity by ablating a body with a laser, as recited in independent claim 1. The Office Action acknowledges, on page 4, that Kawai does not disclose or suggest this feature. However, the Office Action asserts that Cervantes discloses the feature.

The present application is a divisional application of U.S. Patent Application No. 09/967,979, now issued as U.S. Patent No. 6,744,072, and filed on October 2, 2001. Further, both the present application and Cervantes are assigned to Xerox Corporation. Because Cervantes was filed on August 1, 2001 and issued on April 30, 2002, Cervantes is a 35 U.S.C.

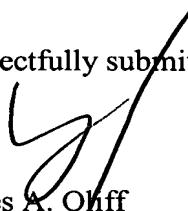
§102(e) reference against the present application. Under 35 U.S.C. §103(c), Cervantes cannot be used as prior art against the present application.

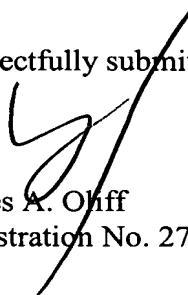
Because Cervantes cannot be used as prior art, and because none of the other references disclose or suggest the above-noted features of independent claim 1, independent claim 1 defines patentable subject matter. Claims 2 and 4-17 depend from independent claim 1, and therefore also define patentable subject matter as well as for the other features they recite. Therefore, withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-2 and 4-17 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,


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